



### Autumn/Winter 2006 Meetings

Monday, October 23: **Potluck with Ghost Stories**  
\*\*\*Please bring food and beverage for a great social evening.\*\*\*

Monday, November 27: John Gerwin – Philopatry, Philandering, Flooding: A Look at One of America’s Dullest, Most Secretive Warblers.

Monday, January 22: Todd Prusser—Antarctica.

Monday February 26: Karen Beck—Urban Wildlife.

Monday, March 26: TBA

Saturday, April 21: Weymouth Woods Open House

Monday May 28: Steve Hall—Jewels of the Night—Moths.

Meeting Times: 7:00pm—Socializing, 7:30 pm—Program.

Location for October 23: North Building, Penick Village (E. Rhode Island Ave. Extension, Southern Pines.)  
Phone 692-0300 for directions.

Meeting locations after October 23: to be announced.

\*\*\*We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month.\*\*\*

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### Upcoming Field Trips

*IMPORTANT Change: Call the field trip leader to register for a trip. Also, call at least one day before the trip to ensure that trip is still on schedule.*

**November 11 Soil Identification** – Meet at Weymouth Woods at 9am. Soils relate very well to various flora and fauna distributions. By means of soil pits and auger borings we will examine soil properties that can be used for classification. Bring water, insect repellent, and a hand lens if you have one. Be prepared to observe plants and birds as well. Contact David McCloy at 692-5094 or 692-4118.

**November 4 Ft. Fisher** – Meet at Walmart at 6am for an all day trip to Ft Fisher. We will bird the ferry terminal, basin, check the aquarium feeders and scan the ocean for seabirds. Depending on the activity and interest we may visit Carolina Beach State Park. Bring lunch. Contact Scott at 692-2167 or 944-9337.

**December 17 Southern Pines Audubon Christmas Bird Count** –this all day bird census puts teams of birders out in specific sections of a 15 mile diameter count circle to tally as many species as possible. You don’t have to be a bird watcher to participate. Contact Susan Campbell for more information.

- February 24** **Huntington Beach, SC** – Depart about 6am and bird all day, returning about 6pm. The great habitat diversity will give us opportunities to see varieties of shore birds, waders and inland birds. Contact: Cassie Willis at 693-1221.
- March 7** **Paint Hill, Aberdeen** – Meet at Weymouth Woods at 2pm. We will carpool the two miles to Paint Hill to look for blooming pixie moss and possibly brown elfins. This will be an easy 1-2 mile hike. Contact Scott at 692-2167 or 944-9337.
- March 31** **Spring Odonates--** Meet at the Weymouth Woods at 2am. Spring damselflies and dragonflies will be our main target but count on being distracted by butterflies, plants and birds. Bring binoculars, water, insect/tick repellent. Contact Scott at 692-2167 or 944-9377.
- April 7** **Yucca Giant Skipper Foray**—Meet at Weymouth Woods at 10am. We will carpool to Scott's house to view and count yucca skippers. This large butterfly's only host plant is yuccas. They have an interesting life cycle. Bring lunch and binoculars/cameras. Contact Scott at 692-2167 or 944-9377.

### **Field Trip Ideas that Need Leaders:**

Some field trip ideas that need leaders include: Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge, Francis Beidler Forest in Four Holes Swamp. Scott Hartley would like to encourage members to consider scheduling and leading field trips. We have many knowledgeable folks in this group, and it would be a pleasure to join them on field trips to their favorite places. Please call Scott with your field trip ideas (692-2167). Your contributions will be greatly appreciated by the membership.

### **From the President's Desk: Susan Campbell**

#### *Plant adoption day at Carolina Greenery*

Sandhills Natural History Society members are invited to Carolina Greenery in Carthage on Saturday October 21 from 10 to 4 to dig up and give good homes to plants at Carolina Greenery. You will need to bring your own pots and a trowel. Given the amount of plant materials, this event will be limited to the first 10 people who contact Susan Campbell at 949-3207 or [susan@ncaves.com](mailto:susan@ncaves.com).

#### *Migration banding at Weymouth Woods*

We have had some very exciting mornings at Weymouth Woods at our banding site so far this fall. In addition to catching local species such as Carolina Wrens, Northern Cardinals, and Eastern Towhees we have banded a good number of birds passing through to points south. We have encountered the usual array of thrushes: Swainson's, Gray-cheeked, Veery and Wood Thrush. Warblers have been quite varied: Ovenbird, American Redstart, Worm-eating, Hooded, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Waterthrush, And we have also banded Gray Catbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager and the park's first Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. We also caught a group of young Bachman's Sparrows as well as an early Winter Wren. We even managed to catch a Red-shouldered Hawk that was attempting to steal a bird from a net. Of course we do not have bands big enough for hawks but this beautiful adult was sure impressive to see up close. A very unexpected surprise! Banding will continue through mid-October as weather and volunteer help allow. Many thanks to Kelley Anderson, Michael McCloy, Brady Beck and Susan Pulsipher for their assistance this fall.

### *Partners in Flight*

On November 15th the North Carolina Partners in Flight fall meeting will take place at Weymouth Woods from 1-5 PM. The speakers will discuss ongoing outreach, monitoring and research projects throughout the state. The emphasis will be on conservation efforts here in the Sandhills region. Presentations will be made by biologists from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, North Carolina Wildlife Commission, Ft. Bragg, and Weymouth Woods. The public is invited to attend. Please contact Susan Campbell before November 14th.

### **Trip Reports**

#### **Sandhills Turf Farm by David McCloy**

On Saturday, August 19, 2006 Brady Beck, Carol Bowman, Linda Jones, David & Nancy Kilpatrick, David McCloy, Kaye Swafford, George Thompson & friend Thelma, and Pru Williams braved a heavy early morning fog to bird an area which potentially can have many fall migrant shorebirds. At 7:00 a.m. visibility was very poor in the open turf fields. It was decided, until the fog lifted, to search for passerines in the smaller fields along a service road/driveway and at a small pond. This area was on the west side of the property. Shortly before 9:00 a.m. the fog began to lift so that in a short time visibility became quite good. The open turf field immediately to the east of the office and maintenance buildings was searched at first and gave the best results. Near a small wet spot in the field three Horned Lark and a Pectoral Sandpiper were spotted as well as very prevalent Killdeer and European Starlings. Afterwards the remaining turf fields were searched. The trip ended with a search of a brushy area at the rear or north end of the turf fields.

The following is a list of the bird species seen/heard: Great Blue Heron 1, Red-tailed Hawk 2, American Kestrel 1, Northern Bobwhite 1, Killdeer 55, Pectoral Sandpiper 1, Mourning Dove 6, Yellow-billed Cuckoo 1, Ruby-throated Hummingbird 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 1, Pileated Woodpecker 1, Eastern Wood-Pewee 4, Eastern Phoebe 1, Eastern Kingbird 1, Horned Lark 3, Blue Jay 2, American Crow 5, Fish Crow 3, Carolina Chickadee 2, Brown-headed Nuthatch 5, Carolina Wren 6, Eastern Bluebird 10, Northern Mockingbird 1, European Starling 130, Red-eyed Vireo 1, Pine Warbler 11, Northern Cardinal 2, Blue Grosbeak 3, Indigo Bunting 1, Eastern Towhee 2, Chipping Sparrow 20, Field Sparrow 6, and American Goldfinch 15. In addition, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Variegated Fritillary, Common Buckeye, and Monarch butterflies, a Six-lined Racerunner, and Halloween Pennant and Common Whitetail dragonflies were seen.

#### **Pinehurst Greenway by Carol Bowman**

On September 9 a group of 14 birders/hikers/naturalists assembled for a familiarization trek on the Pinehurst Greenway, an area recently developed to focus on and preserve the natural habitat in Pinehurst. We started at the Arboretum entrance on Magnolia Rd., hiked thru Wicker Park, crossed Hwy. 211 to the trail behind the First Health Fitness Center, over the wetland footbridges and continued on the trail skirting Village Acres subdivision, approximately 4 miles roundtrip. The group saw/heard 25 species of birds, observed the native plant specimens along the trail that have been identified with signage and found numerous spiders/webs, dragon and damselflies and had excellent observations of several Phantom Crane Flies in one of the wet areas. Check out this website for a treat in spider web building:

[www.conservation.unibas.ch/team/zschokke/movie.html](http://www.conservation.unibas.ch/team/zschokke/movie.html) .



c/o Weymouth Woods Nature Preserve  
1024 N. Fort Bragg Road  
Southern Pines, NC 28387

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR WITH THE FIELD TRIP DATES

***IMPORTANT CHANGE: CALL THE FIELD TRIP LEADER TO REGISTER FOR A FIELD TRIP. CALL AT LEAST ONE DAY BEFORE TRIP TO ENSURE THAT TRIP IS STILL ON SCHEDULE AND FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.***

**If you do not have email please read this:**

Our field trips often have schedule changes and we send out email updates to the membership. We suggest you ask a friend who receives these emails to keep you informed. You can also periodically call the field trip leader to get the latest updates.

**ANNUAL DUES**

Dues are \$5 per person, payable to SNHS. Send c/o Beth Carpenter, 565 Orchard Road, Southern Pines, NC 28387. Please include with your payment your address, telephone number, and, as noted above, your e-mail address. If your mailing label shows a "0", you haven't paid for this year. If it shows "1" or "2", you've paid for one or two persons for the year.